

**TOP SECRET**

Approved For Release 2001/08/15 : CIA-RDP62B00844R000200010193-9

28 May 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR : Project Director

THROUGH : Deputy Project Director

SUBJECT : Procedures to be Followed in the Event of an  
Aircraft Loss over Hostile Territory

1. Pursuant to your memorandum of 9 April 1956, the procedures outlined in the attachment hereto have been discussed with NACA and Headquarters, USAF. While minor amendments have been made as a result of these discussions and recent negotiations with [REDACTED] the attached paper remains substantively the same as the draft copy forwarded to you on 27 April and subsequently incorporated in the Cover Annex of the Operations Order.

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2. Both USAF and NACA PIO contacts concur in the procedures as they now stand. However, since it is recommended that the proposed releases to be made after hostile press radio or diplomatic reaction be issued by the Department of State, the attached document should be coordinated as soon as possible with State Department public relations contacts.

3. With your approval of the proposed procedures and releases, the undersigned will undertake to get State Department concurrence through whatever channels you recommend.

25X1A

[REDACTED]  
Cover Officer

Att: 6 pp.

1&2 - RMB  
3 - JAG  
4 - Admin  
5 - Ops  
6 - Security  
7 - Cover  
8 - Reading  
9 - Chron.

JWR/hh

TS 143486 ✓  
Copy 2 of 9.  
Page 1 of 1.

Approved For Release 2001/08/15 : CIA-RDP62B00844R000200010193-9

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28 May 1956

Procedures to be Followed in the Event of an Aircraft Loss  
Over Hostile Territory

I. Action - Prior to Evidence of Hostile Reaction

A. Immediate notification of Headquarters by the [REDACTED] Commander through both Agency and USAF channels. In turn, Project Headquarters will notify State Department and NACA contacts and, along with USAF Headquarters, arrange for final review and agreement on action items indicated under II, below.

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B. Overflight operations will cease immediately. However, [REDACTED] will continue to operate as normal with all flights assigned cover data-gathering missions.

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C. Normal USAF press release prepared by [REDACTED] Commander (and coordinated with General Wilson, 3rd Air Force and/or General Turner, CINCSAFE, as appropriate), will be issued indicating that a U-2 aircraft is overdue and presumed lost, adding that the last reported position of the aircraft was - - (see below and paragraph II.E(1)). The release will go on to indicate that Air Rescue Service has instituted a search for the aircraft. The announced area of the search will depend upon the known or estimated point of compromise [REDACTED]

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The release should be timed to accord with normal USAF practice (no more than a few hours after a known or assumed loss). Should press queries immediately follow the initial "presumed lost" press release but precede evidence of hostile reaction, a press release based on the unclassified cover story will be issued by the [REDACTED] Commander (through 3rd Air Force or USAF as appropriate) describing the alleged mission of the aircraft and sponsorship of the program.

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II. Action - After Hostile Press and/or Radio Reaction

A. General PIO Policy: All releases in response to hostile reaction will originate and emanate from Headquarters after full coordination has been made. Releases decided upon will be communicated immediately (1) through USAF channels to appropriate USAF elements in the field

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Copy 2 of 9.

Page 1 of 6.

25X1C

Approved For Release 2001/08/15 : CIA-RDP62B00844R000200010193-9

**Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt**

Approved For Release 2001/08/15 : CIA-RDP62B00844R000200010193-9

**TOP SECRET**

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Addendum to TS 143486/101/2nd Edn, entitled, "Procedures to be Followed in the Event of an Aircraft Loss Over Hostile Territory", dated 8 June 1956:

Add the following to Part I., Paragraph A:

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"The [REDACTED] Commander's notification to Headquarters should include or be followed immediately by a report of those details which Headquarters will require in preparing its release in response to hostile reaction; i.e., actual location and circumstances (e.g., aircraft crash or forced landing, condition of the pilot, weather conditions, etc.) of the loss if known, text of [REDACTED] "presumed lost" release (Paragraph C, below), and cover flight plan outlining the track alleged to have been followed by the aircraft."

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TS 143486  
Page 1 of 1  
Copy 4 of 8

Approved For Release 2001/08/15 : CIA-RDP62B00844R000200010193-9

**TOP SECRET**

25X1C

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